

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 11-29 are pending in the application.

Claims 11-29 stand rejected.

The claims have been amended, no new matter has been added.

Claims 14-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

New claims 30-36 have been added. No new matter is added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 24 has been rewritten into independent form and amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as set forth below. Claim 25 depends from claim 24.

Status of the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner states that "the locking element is attached to the wall using at least one of a catch and a dovetailed joint" must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claims. Applicant submits that the claims have been amended to remove this feature. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 14-20 have now been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 11-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that the term "clamp/plug" is vague and indefinite. Additionally, the Examiner states that the term "the locking element is connected as a single piece to the wall using injection molding" recited in claims 14-16 is also vague and indefinite.

Claims 14-20 have been cancelled rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims. Claims 11-13 and 21-29 have been amended to recite a "connector" instead of a "clamp/plug connector." Applicant submits that this term is clear and definite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 11-20, 23, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,648,681 to Ushiro et al ("Ushiro"). Ushiro describes a pair of retainer loops 30a, 30b which "undergo flexure in flat and pass through the attachment port of the panel when it is inserted into the attachment port of the panel, and restore respective original shapes after they passed through the attachment port" (Ushiro, column 3, lines 53-64).

Claim 11 has been amended to recite that "the locking element includes a clamp part configured to engage an inner edge of a through opening of the wall, and a first surface of the actuation wedge presses against a side of the clamp part facing the actuation wedge." Support for this amendment is set forth in paragraph 10 of the originally filed specification and Figs. 1 and 3.

Ushiro does not disclose that "a first surface of the actuation wedge presses against a side of the clamp part facing the actuation wedge," as recited in claim 11. Thus, Ushiro does not disclose all of the features of amended claim 11. Therefore, Ushiro cannot anticipate claim 11. Claims 12-20, 23 and 27-29 depend from claim 11 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 11 is. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21-22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ushiro.

With respect to claims 22 and 26, these claims depend from amended claim 11 and are patentable over Ushiro for at least the same reasons as claim 11 is, as set forth above.

With respect to claim 21, the claim has been amended into independent form and to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The features of previously presented claim 21 are unchanged.

The Examiner admits that Ushiro does not disclose that "the clamp housing includes a plurality of disk-shaped contact housings attached to one another, and further comprising a terminating attachment plate" as recited in claim 21. The Examiner states that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the clamp housing can be formed as a plurality of disk-shaped contact housings attached to one another rather than being a continuous one housing block depending on the requirement of the electrical system in which the assembly is used." *See*, Detailed Action, page 5, lines 10-14.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 21 does not present a *prima facie* case of obviousness in accordance with MPEP § 2143.

First, the rejection sets forth that the clamp housing can be formed as a plurality of disk shaped contact housings depending on the requirement of the electrical system. But the rejection does not present any motivation to alter the teaching of Ushiro to include the plurality of disk shaped contact housings.

Second, Ushiro (the sole reference) does not teach or suggest that "the clamp housing includes a plurality of disk-shaped contact housings attached to one another, and further comprising a terminating attachment plate." Thus, Ushiro does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, as required for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Further, the rejection does not consider the feature of "a terminating attachment plate," except to admit that it is not disclosed by Ushiro.

Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is patentable over Ushiro. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

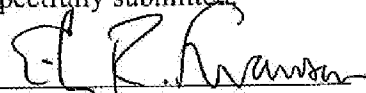
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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